Government House,

15-12-33.

Private & Personal.

My dear Maharajah Saheb,

There is a strong rumour going round that when Mr.Gandhi visits Your Highness' state he is to be the guest of Your Highness and I also understand that H.H.the Yuvaraj is to take the chair for him at one of his meetings.

Now if Mr.Gandhi were coming to you as a private individual I shouldn't venture to say a word,but,as you well know he is a public figure in this ~~country,he has~~ been all along and still is the leader of the civil disobedience movement which I have with my Government been combating for the past 2½ years and which is clearly subversive and unlawful and has done an immense amount of harm to all classes of Indian people.

I hope and believe that there is no truth in this rumour,for Your Highness will understand how impossible it would be for me to explain why one of the greatest pinces of India was encouraging an individual who had been defying the Government of Indiaand urging people to break the law,and more particularly I would impress this on you - that Your Highness is showing favour to Mr.Gandhi so soon after the Viceroy has visited you.

I am writing to you quite frankly for you are a very old personal friend and I am sure you will understand my anxiety with regard to this matter.

I need only add this that,if by any chance these rumours are true, I should have to give some explanation to all your brother princes and to His Majesty and the Secretary of State,for naturally there would be considerable astonishment over this matter.

In the meantime I know you will believe me when I say that I would never have thought of interfering in your affairs but for the fact that these have casued me real anxiety, and I trust I shall get a reassuring letter from you soon.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(sd) Willingdon.